

COASTAL CURRENTS



The Sydney Coastal Councils Group Quarterly Newsletter | Summer Edition 2016-2017 | #82



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From the Chair

We have sweltered during Summer, with 2016 being reported as the hottest year on record globally. Temperatures continued to soar throughout January 2017, the hottest month on record, and there was no reprieve in sight with February hitting the late 30's in Sydney and the mid 40's in Western Sydney for multiple days in a row!

It goes without saying that climate change resilience will continue to be a priority of the SCCG. Whilst the Salty Communities Program is unfortunately coming to a close in March, we have ticked the box on a number of outputs including; the Climate Ready Tool, capacity building workshops, a series of factsheets, a successful communities of practice, and environmental targets that have been exceeded through on-ground Council projects. Happily, I can announce that we have been successful in obtaining grant funding for a new project that will look at adapting coastal recreational infrastructure for climate change during 2017/18.

The Emergency Management Project which has developed an online Emergency Management Health Check Tool and resource toolkit for NSW local councils has come to fruition with the website and online tool now live.

On the Advocacy front, we provided a submission on the Coastal Management SEPP, and we will be busily preparing submissions over the coming month on the planning legislation updates, the District Plans, the inquiry into shark mitigation and deterrent measures, and the state-wide Threat and Risk Assessment (TARA) for the NSW marine estate.

On behalf of the Sydney Coastal Councils Group (SCCG), I take this opportunity to congratulate the new NSW Premier Gladys Berejiklian and her Ministry. We look forward to working collaboratively with the Premier and Ministers on the various reforms currently underway. Whilst we are still facing upheaval with SCCG member council amalgamations being fought out in the courts, we also look forward to continuing our work in sustainable coastal management and remaining strong advocates for our coastal and estuarine environments during 2017.

Councillor Lynne Saville
SCCG CHAIRPERSON

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The SCCG was established in 1989 to promote coordination between Member Councils on environmental issues relating to sustainable management of the urban coastal environment.

The SCCG currently consists of eleven Member Councils adjacent to Sydney marine and estuarine environments and associated waterways, and represents nearly 1.3 million Sydneysiders.



Bayside Council

NORTHERN BEACHES COUNCIL



Mosman COUNCIL



WAVERLEY COUNCIL

INNER WEST COUNCIL

www.sydneycoastalcouncils.com.au

Project Updates

Sydney's Salty Communities – Turning the Tide on Blue+Green Carbon



Supplementary Round

Congratulations to those involved in the six supplementary round grants projects: Dee Why Lagoon Biodiversity, Warriewood Wetlands Biocontrol, Fisher Bay Restoration, Hollows as Homes, Fishermans Walk Climate Change Connections and Connected Corridors for Biodiversity. These were very successful projects, with many environmental outcomes targets exceeded: over 5,300 plants were planted (18% above target), with a 6-month survival rate of 94% (exceeding target of 85%), while more than 4,700 plants were propagated from seed (89% above target). The number of surviving plants with a mature height greater than 2m was nearly 700, greatly exceeding the target of 285. These projects delivered over 140 community participation and engagement events.



Special Projects

Five special projects are now concluding. A brochure outlining the science and key management issues around Blue Carbon has been developed for local government. The Urban Ecology Capacity Building project delivered by the Australian Resilience Centre provided four workshops which were very well received. SCCG partnered with Macquarie and Wollongong Universities to deliver a Mangrove & Saltmarsh Threat Analysis (including a detailed study of Wolli Creek). SCCG also engaged ARIES to undertake a Backyard Habitat Program Review, surveying 18 council and 3 external programs. These reports will be released shortly. A final project sees SCCG once again partnering with CSIRO to extend the [Climate-Ready Biodiversity Management Tool](#), delivering a detailed case study of Waverley Council's journey towards climate readiness with regards to Eastern Suburbs Banksia Scrub management.

Final seminar: Lessons from the Sydney's Salty Communities program

SCCG will host a seminar on 23 February at Customs House to explore the lessons learned by those involved in the Salty Communities program and the future directions for urban biodiversity management on the Sydney coast.

More information on the Salty Communities Program can be found on the [SCCG website](#).

Emergency Management: Are You Ready?

SCCG has finalised the Emergency Management grant project 'Implementing and Embedding an Emergency Management Health Check for Local Government' funded through the State Emergency Management Projects Program.

SCCG engaged consultants Janellis to deliver on the primary aspects of the project including the development of a functional, user friendly online Emergency Management Health Check Tool, a user guide and a resource toolkit. Six stakeholder engagement workshops were held across NSW between September and November in the following locations: Waverton, Newcastle, Dubbo, Ballina, Ulladulla and Lidcombe. Input and feedback obtained from council staff as well as other local and state government stakeholders throughout the process was considered in the development of the final online Health Check Tool.

The online Health Check Tool, the Guide to using the Health Check Tool and various templates and resources can now be accessed on the dedicated website. The website is now live, go to www.emhealthcheck.com.au



We encourage all NSW Councils to utilise the website and complete the online health check tool by June 2017.

Advocacy

Coastal Management State Environmental Planning Policy

In January 2017, the SCCG welcomed the opportunity to provide a submission to the Department of Planning and the Environment on the Coastal Management State Environmental Planning Policy (SEPP).

The SCCG thanks the previous Minister for Planning for firstly exhibiting the SEPP and secondly for taking on board our request to include Sydney's wetlands and littoral rainforest previously excluded from the State's planning system.

The SCCG however remains concerned that the coastal reform agenda has not gone far enough in addressing the fundamental need to enhance the whole of government partnership approach to ensure the sustainable management of the coast, and that the reforms continue to fundamentally shift responsibility for coastal management to local government despite the fact that the majority of the NSW coast is under public ownership, much of the state is owned and managed by state authorities, and that the State holds many responsibilities and has enormous economic interests in coastal NSW.

Additional issues addressed in this submission include:

- That state coastal inundation information be included into the SEPP and that the Sydney regional coastal inundation mapping information, prepared by the CSIRO on behalf of the SCCG be incorporated.
- Seeking further details of how the SEPP may cause inconsistencies and duplications, and impact the status and future of other State planning policy documents applying to Sydney's coastal zone; including but not limited to: The Sydney Regional Environment Plan (SREP), Sydney Harbour Catchment 2005.
- Requests for specific assessment guidelines, practice notes, and training to assist Councils to clarify how they might be "satisfied" that a proposed development meets certain biophysical, ecological, hydrological, geomorphological, and cultural thresholds before granting consent.

The SCCG Submission can be viewed on the [SCCG website](#).

SCCG and Sydney Water MOU

The SCCG and Sydney Water have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) which outlines how the two organisations will work together to achieve healthier waterways and improved urban water management. Under the MOU the two organisations will focus on integrated water management, which looks to balance water, sewerage and stormwater solutions to optimise environmental, social and economic outcomes.

This agreement marks the next chapter for the two organisations that have already achieved significant benefits for the liveability of Sydney's coast over the past 25 years. The MOU will assist in achieving key outcomes including a shared strategy for integrated water management, better asset management coordination, and enhanced communication and information sharing, to ensure continuous improvements to water quality.

Under the MOU, SCCG and Sydney Water have already delivered a capacity building forum for SCCG Member Councils and Sydney Water Staff on healthy waterways, and entered into an information sharing agreement to facilitate data integration and coordinated management on stormwater and wastewater infrastructure.

Draft Statewide Threat and Risk Assessment for the NSW Marine Estate

The Marine Estate Management Authority (MEMA) has undertaken the first ever statewide threat and risk assessment (TARA) for the NSW marine estate.

The draft statewide TARA identifies priority threats at the statewide and region scales for estuaries, coastal and marine waters, as well as to social and economic benefits. The final statewide TARA will inform the NSW Government's management directions for the NSW marine estate over the next ten years through the Marine Estate Management Strategy.

The draft report, as well as other supporting material, including three videos are now available at www.marine.nsw.gov.au

An interactive TARA tool is also available to help people navigate, interrogate and provide feedback on the TARA.

The draft statewide TARA report is now on exhibition. Submissions close 31 March 2017.



PHOTO: THE HEADS © KHOWARD

Coastal News

SCCG Successful in Securing Grant Funds

SCCG has received grant funding via the Building Resilience to Climate Change program to undertake the 'Adapting Priority Coastal Recreational Infrastructure for Climate Change' project.

Huge investment has been made along the NSW coastline in public Infrastructure that is highly vulnerable to the impacts of climate change, this includes; wharves, jetties, beaches, promenades, parks, pools, pathways and boat ramps. SCCG will work in partnership with Engineers Australia - National Committee on Coastal and Oceans Engineering (NCCOE), to develop a practical assessment tool for coastal infrastructure that councils (and other foreshore managers) can use to evaluate the condition and vulnerability of infrastructure assets to the impacts of climate change. The tool will also enable landowners, through a decision-framework and cost-benefit analysis, to maintain the infrastructure against possible alternative actions. The assessment method and decision framework will be developed, trialled and refined utilising case study sites.

We will keep you updated on how this project is developing over the coming months.

Summerama Program



The annual Summerama Program was rolled out in January 2017 with a full program again this year. Eight of the eleven SCCG Member Councils participated in Summerama hosting fun action packed activities including walks, talks, rockpool rambles, snorkeling, kayaking, boat tours, wetland tours, arts and crafts, and coastal activity days.

The SCCG worked in partnership with the Walking Coastal Sydney Volunteers to host coastal walks, and formed a partnership with the Greater Sydney Local Land Service (Chinese aquatic champions) and the DPI Fishcare volunteers to coordinate a Reef walk at Long Reef Aquatic Reserve for the Chinese speaking community (unfortunately this walk had to be cancelled due to bad weather). SCCG also supported the Australian Marine Conservation Society promoting their event 'A Celebration of Sanctuaries' at Manly.

The activities were promoted at www.summerama.com.au and on the Summerama Facebook page.

Thank you to all participating Councils and dedicated Council staff involved in the Summerama program throughout January (Summerama Champions)!, and to all those that participated in Summerama activities during January 2017 – we hope you enjoyed spending time over summer experiencing the coast!



World Harbour Project

The World Harbour Project is conducting research into public perceptions around the use of marine ecological engineering strategies in Sydney Harbour.

Ecological engineering is the practice of combining engineering and ecology to minimise the ecological impacts of man-made structures including jetties, wharves, seawalls, groynes and aquaculture facilities on the natural environment, and to enhance the opportunities for increasing ecological habitat value.

To better understand your thoughts on this topic, a 10-minute survey has been created for you to complete.

The survey is open from February to April 2017 and can be accessed at:

www.worldharbourproject.org/harbour-survey/

Just for Interest

Check out the documentary series 'Coastal Revival' directed by Brandy Yanchyk. This five part mini-series, released in 2016, tells the story of the First Nations peoples and environmentalists and their use of ecotourism to conserve biodiversity on the British Columbia coast.